The Mitanni Gojar Empire

of Sultan Kirta Gojar & Raja Dasharatha Shuttarna

Imperial Rule from Washukanni (□□□ □□□□□) across the Zagros Mountains to Mount Cudi

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The Mitanni Empire, established in the 16th century BC, flourished in the upper Euphrates-Tigris region across Mesopotamia, Kurdistan, and Anatolia when Hindus were emerging in Mesopotamia, the Caucasus, and the Armenian Highlands, and preparing to move to the subcontinent on the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization. Ruled by a distinct Indo-Aryan elite, this Bronze Age powerhouse linked early Semitic and Indo-Aryan cultures through diplomacy, chariot warfare, and shared religious pantheons.

A Flourishing Mesopotamian Hub

Washukanni, the capital of the Mitanni Empire, is deeply entwined with the roots of Indo-Aryan history. In Sanskrit, the name is frequently interpreted as Vasukhaani (वसुखानी), signifying a "mine of wealth". Located near the headwaters of the Khabur River in modern-day northern Syria and southeastern Turkey, this wealthy administrative center sat perfectly in the fertile lands between the Tigris and Euphrates, sprawling across the Zagros Mountain foothills and the Cudi mountain range.

The Kings of Mitanni

The use of Indo-Aryan and Sanskrit-derived names among the ruling class is a hallmark of Mitanni history. The notable succession of Mitanni kings highlights this tradition:

1. Kirta Gojar who laid the foundation of the empire
2. Shuttarna I (1490–1470 BCE)
3. Barattarna
4. Parshatatar
5. Shaushtatar
6. Artatama I
7. Shuttarna II
8. Artashumara
9. Tushratta (also associated with Dasharatha)
10. Shattiwaza

Vedic Deities in the Levant

Perhaps the most striking evidence of early Indo-Aryan cultural dominance in the region is found in international treaties. In a historic peace accord between the Mitanni King Shattiwaza and the Hittite King Suppiluliuma, four major Rigvedic deities — Mitra, Varuna, Indra, and the Nasatya/Ashvins — were invoked as divine witnesses. This compelling cross-cultural link highlights the deep historical connections between the ancient Near East and Vedic tradition.

Hurrian Sanskrit and Shared Linguistics

The prevailing administrative language of the empire was Hurrian. However, scholars have found strong superstrates of Vedic Sanskrit within the region's linguistic fabric. The famous chariot-training manual authored by Kikkuli, the master horse trainer of Mitanni, contains unmistakable Sanskrit numerals and technical terms. These parallels point to deep historical ties between Mitanni civilization and ancient Vedic culture.